

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 /067 W

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R 041008Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 562

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 0501

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PP

SUBJECT: SENATOR WILLISEE'S VISIT

REF: PORT MORESBY 414

1. PAPUA BESENA AGITATIONS WERE NOTHING MORE THAN A MINOR NUISANCE DURING SENATOR WILLISEE'S STOP IN PORT MORESBY, ACCORDING TO LAVATT, DEPUTY HEAD OF AUSTRALIAN OFFICE. ABOUT 20 DEMONSTRATORS MET HIM AT AIR PORT UPON ARRIVAL.

2. LAVATT THOUGHT POLICE OVERREACTED AT DEMONSTRATION AT KIKI'S DINNER FOR HIM. WILLISEE TRIED TO TALK TO AGITATORS, BUT THEY SHOUTED HIM DOWN. BOURAGA (CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICE) SET APPOINTMENT FOR WILLISEE TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PAPUA BESENA THE FOLLOWING DAY BUT FORGOT TO TELL AUSTRALIANS HE HAD SET IT. CONSEQUENTLY MEETING (WHEN IT WAS REPROGRAMMED) GOT OFF TO POOR START.

3. AT MEETING JOSEPHINE ABAIJAH READ WILLISEE THE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, MADE A FEW OTHER COMMENTS AND TOLD HIM SHE DID NOT WANT TO HEAR FROM HIM AS SHE ALREADY KNEW THE AUSTRALIAN POSITION.

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4. THERE WAS NO DEMONSTRATION AT WILLISEE'S DEPARTURE.

5. COMMENT: LAVATT SAID THAT WILLISEE'S VISIT ALTHOUGH
PRIMARILY A JUNKET, INDICATED THE SHIFT OF RESPONSIBILITY
FROM MORRISON TO WILLISEE FOR PNG MATTERS. MORRISON STILL
HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR CERTAIN ELECTORAL AND LEGISLATIVE
DETAILS, BUT OTHERWISE THE TORCH HAS BEEN HANDED TO
WILLISEE. LAVATT THINKS IT IS LIKELY THAT WILLISEE, NOT
MORRISON, WILL COME TO PORT MORESBY TO OPEN THE NEW
AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION BUILDING IN LATE JULY, BUT
THIS IS NOT YET DEFINITE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PINT, OVIP, PFOR, PP, AS, (ABAIJAH, JOSEPHINE), (WILLISEE, DONALD R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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